

Medicine from Afeem

2675. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI DATTAMEGHE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two pharma companies have been given licenses to make medicines from Afeem;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving such licenses to private companies;

(c) whether in view of the increasing demand of medicines made from opium there is any plan to expand the opium and alkaloid factories situated in Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh and Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Afeem is a synonym of the term Opium which is Narcotic Drug and used in the production of Alkaloids such as Morphine, Codeine etc.

The production of Opium is under the control of Government of India and there are two Government Opium and Alkaloid factories in the country, one is located at Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh and the other one is at Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh.

The Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance is examining the feasibility of permitting pharma companies to produce Alkaloids/APIs from Opium after obtaining the Opium from Government Opium and Alkaloids works.

Cancer patients in the country

†2676. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cancer patients in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps Government have taken to prevent cancer disease; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.